

Message Text

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FM AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: ALTR, CY

SUBJ: FOR DEPARTMENT NEWSLETTER

1. FOLLOWING IS SUGGESTED TEXT TO BE INCLUDED WITH ARTICLE WE ASSUME IS PLANNED ON AMBASSADOR DAVIES' DEATH IN NICOSIA. EMBASSY FEELS THAT ATTENTION SHOULD ALSO BE GIVEN TO FACT THAT FSL ANTOINETTE VARNAVA DIED WHILE TRYING TO ASSIST FATALLY WOUNDED AMBASSADOR.

2. BEGIN TEXT: ANTOINETTE M. VARNAVA, 31, AN EMPLOYEE OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN NICOSIA FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS, MET HER DEATH ON AUGUST 19 ONLY MINUTES AFTER AMBASSADOR RODGER P. DAVIES WAS FATALLY WOUNDED FROM GUNFIRE IN AN ANTI-AMERICAN DEMONSTRATION OUTSIDE THE EMBASSY. AS THE AMBASSADOR FELL, MISS VARNAVA LEFT HER POSITION OF SAFETY TO ASSIST HIM AND WAS STRUCK BY A SECOND BULLET.

ANTOINETTE, AN ADMINISTRATIVE SECRETARY AND ASSISTANT, CAME FROM A MARONITE FAMILY. HER NATIVE TOWN WAS THE VILLAGE OH KORMAKITIS IN THE NORTHERN REGION OF CYPRUS. IT HAD BEEN OCCUPIED BY TURKISH FORCES A FEW DAYS EARLIER. SHE LEAVES BEHIND TWO YOUNGER SISTERS, NINA AND CHRISTIANA, AND A BROTHER, ROGER. AN EMBASSY OFFICER ESCORTED THE CASKET THROUGH THE TURKISH LINES, AND THE FUNERAL WAS HELD IN HER NATIVE VILLAGE, ATTENDED BY FAMILY FRIENDS AND HER PARENTS. HER FATHER IS A RETIRED POLICEMAN.

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SHORTLY AFTER THEY WERE TOLD OF THE DEATH OF THEIR DAUGHTER,

MR. AND MRS. VARNAVA RECEIVED A TELEGRAM FROM SECRETARY KISSINGER EXPRESSING HIS SYMPATHY AND CONDOLENCES. DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE DEAN BROWN, SENT TO CYPRUS TO TAKE CHARGE OF THE U.S. EMBASSY, CALLED ON THE VARNAVA FAMILY TO EXTEND HIS PERSONAL CONDOLENCES AND TO ADD THAT THE ENTIRE STAFF OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY IN NICOSIA HAD ADMIRERD AND RESPECTED ANTOINETTE FOR HER LOYALTY AND CHARACTER.

IT WAS A JOY TO WORK WITH TONY, AND HER COLLEAGUES IN HE EMBASSY WILL LONG FEEL HER LOSS. AS ONE OF HER CYPRIOT COWORKERS OBSERVED, SHE STUCK WITH THE EMBASSY THROUGH ITS MOST DIFFICULT DAYS WHEN HER WARMTH AND FRIENDSHIP WERE A SOURCE OF STRENGTH FOR EVERYBODY. END TEXT. BROWN

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